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Message Text

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21
ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 410
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E NHB I A L SEOUL 3923

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, KS
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS EMBASSY REQUEST TO BE INCLUDED IN EMBASSY E&E PLANNING

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS HIS CHARGE, NETHERLANDS ATTACHE CALLED ON DCM JUNE 2 TO REQUEST THAT NETHERLANDS COMMUNITY IN KOREA BE INCLUDED UNDER AMERICAN E AND E PLAN. HE AGREED THAT THERE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ARMED CONFLICT, BUT SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TAKE ALL PRUDENT MEASURES TO INSURE SAFETY OF ITS NATIONALS. HE ADDED THAT IN 1970 U.S. HAD AGREED TO INCLUDE NETHERLANDS COMMUNITY ON "SPACE AVAILABLE" BASIS IN ANY EVACUATION AND ASKED WHETHER SUCH AGREEMENT STILL IN EFFECT.

2. DCM RESPONDED THAT EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF 1970 AGREEMENT AND THAT U.S. COULD NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESIDENTS IN ABSENCE OF FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS. OTHER EMBASSIES SHOULD DEVELOP EVACUATION PLANS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR MOVEMENT OF THEIR NATIONALS FROM OWN RESOURCES IN ALL BUT MOST EXTREME SITUATIONS. OBVIOUSLY, IN EXTREME EMERGENCY, U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD WITHIN LIMITS IMPOSED BY FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ALLIED NATIONALS BUT THEY SHOULD NOT RELY ON U.S. TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM.
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3. DCM ASSURED ATTACHE THAT SHOULD ADVERSE SITUATION DEVELOP, EMBASSY WOULD KEEP DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY INFORMED OF ITS ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION TO ENABLE OTHER EMBASSIES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON BEHALF OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. WHEN ATTACHE DESCRIBED DUTCH COMMUNITY AS VERY SMALL - NO MORE THAN 80 PERSONS - AND THEREFORE RELATIVELY EASY TO HANDLE, DCM POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE PERHAPS DOZEN SIMILAR GROUPS OF ALLIED NATIONALS WHOSE TOTAL NUMBER WOULD ADD UP TO CONSIDERABLE BURDEN.

4. ATTACHE SAID HIS CHARGE WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND THAT THE HAGUE APPROACH DEPARTMENT ON GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASIS TO REQUEST INCLUSION OF DUTCH COMMUNITY IN EMBASSY E AND E PLAN.

5. COMMENT: RECOMMEND THAT IF APPROACHED, DEPARTMENT RESPOND ALONG LINES PARAGRAPH 2. SINCE DUTCH SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN WIND UP, SOME REASSURANCE THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOSTILITIES IMMINENT OR LIKELY WOULD ALSO APPEAR APPROPRIATE. DUTCH APPROACH DOES REFLECT CONCERN IN SOME SECTORS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT CHANCE OF HOSTILITIES HAS INCREASED IN WAKE OF VIETNAM.
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